

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of voice-to-text reduction for real-time messaging, comprising the steps of:

receiving a speech input from a calling party;

transcribing the speech input to a text message in a same language as the speech input;

converting the text message to an alternative text message in a same language as the received text message based upon at least one of a calling party profile and a called party profile, wherein at least one of said profiles specifies replacing at least a portion of the text message with an alternative text portion having a same meaning as the replaced portion of the text message, the alternative text portion having a shorter length than the replaced portion of the text message;

performing data compression to compress the alternative text message prior to transmitting the alternative text message as a data stream defining a text stream;

transmitting the text stream to a called party;

receiving the alternative text message from the called party as a text stream; and

rendering the alternative text message at the called party substantially in real-time.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of sending a voice signature of the calling party to the called party.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of maintaining a voice signature repository of the calling party for access by a called party of a voice signature of the calling party when receiving a call from the calling party.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of converting the alternative text message at the called party to a speech output by using text-to-speech conversion.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of converting the alternative text message at the called party to a speech output by using text-to-speech conversion in conjunction with the voice signature of the calling party.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the step of translating the alternative text message to another language to provide a translated alternative text message.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting comprises the step of transmitting the translated alternative text message.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of translating the alternative text message occurs in a server on a network coupled between the calling party and the called party.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of converting the translated alternative text message at the called party

to a speech output by using text-to-speech synthesis in conjunction with the voice signature of the calling party.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of rendering comprises the step of converting the alternative text message at the called party to a speech output by using text-to-speech conversion, and wherein the method further comprises:

adding the translated alternative text message to the data stream; and

displaying the translated alternative text message in at the called party's location substantially in real-time.

11. (Previously Presented) A system for voice-to-text reduction for real-time messaging, comprising:

a microphone for receiving a calling party's speech input;

a speech-to-text converter for converting the calling party's speech input to a text message in a same language as the speech input;

a voice portal for converting the text message to an alternative text message in a same language as the received text message based upon at least one of a calling party profile and a called party profile, wherein at least one of said profiles specifies replacing at least a portion of the text message with an alternative text portion having a same meaning as the replaced portion of the text message, the alternative text portion having a shorter length than the replaced portion of the text message;

a data compression module for compressing the alternative text message prior to transmitting the alternative text message as a data stream defining a text stream;

a transmitter for transmitting the text stream to a called party;

a receiver for receiving the alternative text message from the called party; and

a rendering device for rendering the alternative text message substantially in real-time.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the system further comprises a translator for translating the alternative text message into another language.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the system further comprises a text-to speech synthesizer and the rendering device comprises a speaker for providing an audible output of the received alternative text message from the called party.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the text-to-speech synthesizer uses a voice signature of the called party in producing the audible output.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the system further comprises a translator for generating a translated alternative text message in another language, wherein said translated alternative text message is included in said text stream, and wherein the rendering device further comprises a display for displaying the translated alternative text message from the calling party in substantially real-time.

16. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the text streams are received and transmitted over an instant messaging/chat system.

17. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the text streams are received and transmitted over a messaging system using data transmission protocols.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a computer for causing the computer to perform the steps of:

receiving a speech input from a calling party;

transcribing the speech input to a text message in a same language as the speech input;

converting the text message to an alternative text message in a same language as the received text message based upon at least one of a calling party profile and a called party profile, wherein at least one of said profiles specifies replacing at least a portion of the text message with an alternative text portion having a same meaning as the replaced portion of the text message, the alternative text portion having a shorter length than the replaced portion of the text message;

performing data compression to compress the alternative text message prior to transmitting the alternative text message as a data stream defining a text stream;

transmitting the text stream to a called party;

receiving the alternative text message from the called party as a text stream; and

rendering the alternative text message at the called party substantially in real-time.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage of claim 19, further comprising code sections for converting the text message at the called party to a speech output by using text-to-speech conversion in conjunction with a voice signature of the calling party.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage of claim 20, further comprising code sections for:

translating the alternative text message to another language to provide a translated alternative text message;

adding the translated alternative text message to the data stream; and

displaying the translated alternative text message in a display device at the called party's location in substantially in real-time.